(b) if so, the action taken so far in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have recently resolved certain issues necessary to enable the finalisation of the Power Purchase Agreement to be entered into between the Power Project of M/s. Hinduja with APSEB and the Coal Supply cun Transportation Agreement to be entered into between Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., South Eastern Railways and the Power Company.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

6534. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the policy of the Government was tailored more to encourage import of boilers/power generator rather than placing order on BHEL;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the established capacity of BHEL and its utilisation during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of fresh policy initiatives taken to reverse the trend during 1996-97 and result thereof; and

(d) the details of performance of BHEL during 1996-97 targets set for 1997-98 with major expansion/ diversification plans ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No Sir. However, the installed capacity alongwith its utilisation for power generators (TG sets) and boilers and its auxilliaries for the last three years is as under :

Sl. No.	Installed Capacity	Product/Capacity Utilisation MW/MT		
		1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
1.	Boilers & Auxls. Capacity = 165000 MT/Yr.	93802 MT (57%)	77437 MT (47%)	67771 MT (41%)
2.	Power Generators on MW completion capacity = 5845 MW/Yr.	2390 MW (41%)	1382 MW (24%)	2108 MW (36%)

(D) Major performance parameters for 1996-97 are as follows :

Rs./Crs.

	1995-96	1996-97*	Up by
Turnover	4833	5740	19%
Profit Before Tax	582	848	46%

*Subject to Audit.

20% dividend has been paid for 1995-96.

A turnover target of Rs. 6050 Crores has been budgeted for 1997-98.

The major products planned for production in the year 1997-98 under Diversification/Expansion plan include Gas Turbines, Traction Equipment, WH Boilers, Heat Exchangers and Pressure Vessels & certain Defence equipment etc.

Meeting between Tobacco Board & Tobacco Manufacturers

6535. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board conducted any meeting for encouraging trading companies engaged in exports and others to buy virginia tobacco lying with farmers in the current season;

(b) if so, the details of such meetings held with traders and manufacturers; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Tobacco Board has held number of meetings with the tobacco traders, manufacturers and exporters wherein issues relating to ongoing tobacco auctions, payment of remunerative prices to farmers and efforts to purchase all tobacco offered on the auction platforms have been discussed. The response of the trade has been positive and they have assured to take all measures to lift the tobacco offered on auction platforms at remunerative prices keeping the international and domestic demand and supply position in view.

(c) Does not arise.

Annual Bio-Gas Seminar

6536. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the

Annual Bio-Gas Seminar held in New Delhi recently, it was stated by one of the delegates that 2,000 MW power can be generated from cow-dung;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government are importing cow-dung from Holland; and

(d) if so, the usage, thereof and the amount incurred on its import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Annual Biogas Seminar organised by a non-government organisation (NGO), namely Action for Food Production (AFPRO) on March 20-22, 1997 at New Delhi, the 'Biogas Network Journal', volume 2 (1997) was circulated, which contained an article entitled, "Need for a Dung Policy". In this article, it was stated that the conversion into fuel of the entire cattle dung generated in the country would be equivalent to 2000 MW of power. This estimate is theoretical and does not take into account that cattle dung is used in our country mainly as a source of manure and domestic fuel and not for the generation of electrical power.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Cow dung has not been imported from the Netherlands (Holland) during the last three years as per the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India – Volume II brought out by the Directorate Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

[Translation]

Markets for Handloom Weavers

6537. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more markets in the entire country for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of these markets proposed to be set up during 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the locations thereof; and

(d) the amount earmarked for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No Sir. The Government does not set up Market for handloom weavers under Market Development Assistance Scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Reduction of Import Duty on Polyurethane

6538. PROF P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small scale sector using natural rubber as raw material is facing serious crisis due to reduction in import duty on polyurethane for manufacturing foam;

(b) if so, whether this will further reduce the consumption of natural rubber resulting in reduction of its demand; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty on Unbleached Cotton Fabrics by EU

6539. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Union has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on Indian unbleached cotton fabrics;

(b) if so, whether European Union is coming to India to probe the question of imposing of anti-dumping duty on bedlinen also;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made by the Government to protect these fabrics from the proposed anti-dumping duties of the European Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The European Union has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on the imports of unbleached cotton fabrics originating in China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey. Final determination, however, is awaited.

(b) An anti-dumping investigation has also been initiated by the European Union against exports of bed linon from various countries including India and as per normal practice they may conduct verification of information furnished by exporters/producers.

(c) and (d) The Government has been providing all